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CENTRAL FAX CENTERAttorney Docket No. 04166/LHIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Shoichi NOMURA et al

Serial No. : 10/802,136

Filed : March 17, 2004

For : IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,
IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS,
IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM,
AND IMAGE READING APPARATUS

Art Unit : 2622

Examiner :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)
AND STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of a European Search Report dated February 27, 2006 issued in a counterpart European application;
- (2) Copies of cited publications (except U.S. patents and publications); and
- (3) Form PTO/SB/08A.

The European Search Report is in English, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any non-English language publications cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

An English language Abstract is provided for the cited Japanese document.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE
TRANSMISSION
TO NO. 1-571-273-8300TOTAL PAGES: 71

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on the date noted below.

N. Sabadeo

Nalini P. Sabadeo

Dated: March 22, 2006

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by credit card payment, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

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USP 6,188,807 and US 2001/0041017 listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A are counterparts of EP 0 767 575 and EP 1 001 607 cited in the attached European Search Report. See the Annex to the European Search Report.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of February 27, 2006. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in said communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement.

It is requested that an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Application Number	10/802,136
		Filing Date	March 17, 2004
		First Named Inventor	S. NOMURA
		Group Art Unit	2622
		Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	04166/LH

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits ¹	Cite No ¹	Document Number	Kind Code ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion
		6,188,807	B1	ARAKAWA	02-13-2001	
		2001/0041017	A1	DE QUEIROZ	11-15-2001	
		2002/0048413	A1	KASUNOKI	04-25-2002	
		6,515,704	B1	SATO	02-04-2003	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits ¹	Cite No ¹	Offc ³	Document Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T ⁶
		EP	0 767 575	A2	CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA	04-09-1997		*
		JP	10-126733	A	KOGURE MASAAKI	05-15-1998		
		EP	1 001 607	A2	XEROX CORP	05-17-2000		

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

¹ EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

² Unique citation designation number. ³ See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ⁴ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁵ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁶ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

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